



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MARCH 19, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS WEST PLAINS MAN FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL FIREARMS LAW

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a West Plains, Mo., man has been convicted by a federal jury for violating a federal firearms law.

Thurlow W. Johnson, 58, of West Plains, Mo., was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm at the conclusion of a trial that began on March 18, 2004. Jurors deliberated less than an hour before returning a guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr yesterday afternoon.

Johnson was in possession of a Jing An 12 gauge shotgun in Howell County, Mo., on Jan. 17, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Johnson** has a 1973 criminal felony conviction for assault with intent to kill with a deadly weapon under the habitual criminal act in Jackson County, Mo., a 1968 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Howell County, and a 1986 criminal felony conviction for stealing in Wright County, Mo.

Under federal statutes, **Johnson** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys Alex C. Lewis and Doug Gaston. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Howell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow